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April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER VIII Funds Request – I-579 “Cap” Urban Connector

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The SEA is requesting TIGER VIII funds to help subsidize construction costs of the I-579 Urban Connector, known as the I-579 “Cap”. The structure will span the Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard highway creating a new urban public connector of approximately three acres and provide safe access to multi-modal options for walking and biking between the Hill District and Downtown. Surface improvements will include accessible pathways, stormwater management, and landscaping and fixed site components, along with other sustainable strategies.

The “Cap” will reconnect the underserved and disadvantaged Hill District with Downtown Pittsburgh and is key in the support of the new 28 acre site where mixed-use redevelopment is already underway at the Energy Innovation Center. We anticipate the “Cap” will spark an additional \$379 million in private investment in these two neighborhoods increasing economic impact in the Hill District and the Golden Triangle by promoting workforce development and community revitalization.

This project strongly aligns with US DOT’s priorities and “ladders of opportunity” by reconnecting people from an economically distressed neighborhood to centers of employment, education and critical services, and contributing to community revitalization.

On behalf of the Board and stakeholders of the PDP, we strongly support the SEA’s application and look forward to working with them as well as City, County, State and community leaders to realize the goals of creating a vibrant community in the Lower Hill. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Jeremy Waldrup
President & CEO